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REFERENCE:ATTACHMENT TO L-4819
13 FEBRUARY 1968
PAGE 1PRE-TET RAIL ACTIVITY
NINH BINH/THANH HOA AREA
NORTH VIETNAM1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS THE DAY TIME USE OF A PORTION OF THE HANOI/VINH RAILLINE PRIOR TO THE 1968 TET TRUCE.


2. BACKGROUND:

THE USE OF THIS RAILLINE DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS FOR SUPPLY TRAINS IS UNUSUAL DURING NON-TRUCE PERIODS. HOWEVER, DURING THE TWO WEEKS PRECEEDING THE 1968 TET TRUCE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTEMPTED TO USE THIS RAILLINE FOR THE DAYTIME TRANSPORT OF SUPPLIES. AT LEAST ONE SUCH ATTEMPT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL.

3. MISSION READOUT:

DAY PHOTOGRAPHY  REVEALS A
LORRY-PULLED SUPPLY TRAIN 30 NM SOUTH OF THANH HOA AT 191910N 1054315E.
THE SUPPLY TRAIN HAS APPARENTLY BEEN SUBJECTED TO AN AIR ATTACK AS THE LORRY IS BURNING.. EIGHT SMALL, COVERED FLAT CARS APPEAR UNDAMAGED BY THIS APPARENT AIR STRIKE.

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DAY PHOTOGRAPHY  REVEALS A
NORTHBOUND TRAIN BETWEEN THANH HOA AND NINH BINH CONSISTING OF A STEAM LOCOMOTIVE AND APPROXIMATELY TWENTY PIECES OF ROLLING STOCK (AT LEAST TEN OF WHICH ARE BOX CARS, THE REMAINDER ARE PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY SMOKE).

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NGA review(s) completed.

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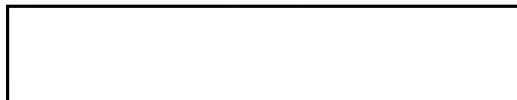
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THE TRAIN IS LOCATED 16 NM NORTH OF THANH HOA AT 200830N 1055250E.

4. REMARKS:

THE DAYTIME USE OF THE HA NOI/VINH RAILLINE WAS OBSERVED DURING THE 1967 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TRUCE PERIODS. LORRY-PULLED SUPPLY TRAINS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE CESSATION OF BOMBING TO SHUTTLE MATERIAL BETWEEN THANH HOA AND VINH. SEVERAL SUPPLY TRAINS PULLED BY STEAM LOCOMOTIVES WERE SIGHTED ON THE THANH HOA/NINH BINH SEGMENT DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS OF THE 1967-68 NEW YEAR TRUCE.

THE DAY TIME SIGHTINGS OF SUPPLY TRAINS PRIOR TO THE 1968 TET TRUCE WERE UNUSUAL AND PROBABLY REPRESENTED A STRONGER AND BOLDER EFFORT BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF MATERIALS BY RAIL.



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